

THE DAY OF TRIAL.

It is said of an illustrious queen of England, that, when dying, her agonizing language was, *Millions of worlds — millions of worlds for another day of probation!* She felt that she could not “stand in the judgment.” And can any impenitent sinner stand in that day of trial?

ALL THE TESTIMONY WILL BE AGAINST HIM. His *companions in sin* will testify against him. Sinners, in this world, encourage one another in transgression; and if one is arrested, his associates may swear falsely to save him. But at the tribunal of God, every mouth that would justify sin will be stopped. The false swearing, the liar, will feel it utterly impossible to evade Omniscience. Thus, every sinner will be constrained to bear witness to the truth, even though it expose his nearest companions to “*shame and everlasting contempt.*”

The *examples of the righteous* will also testify against him. He will not be able to plead that he could not help continuing in sin; that he was urged on by a fatal necessity; for he will see that others who were once of like dispositions have repented, and have broken off their iniquities by turning to the Lord.

His own *awakened conscience and memory* will testify against him. Conscience may now slumber. The sinner may impiously say, “Where is the promise of his coming? What profit shall we have if we pray unto him?” But very different will be his reflections on *another day*. When the slumbers of death are broken,

and the terrors of judgment burst upon the view, then, too, will the slumbers of conscience be broken, and heart-rending convictions fill the mind. Conscience will then testify how you here stifled conviction, resisted the truth, grieved the Holy Spirit. *Memory*, too, will on that day be amazingly quickened. All the privileges you have abused, and all the millions of your now forgotten sins, of thought, word, and deed, will come up in terrible array before you. O, what an immense dark, thick cloud, to break at once in thunder on the conscience! And will not conscience thus be roused to fury, and declare you verily guilty? But more—

The sufferings of Christ will testify against the sinner at the judgment. That same Jesus who hung on the cross, will then fill the throne. But O, how changed! His countenance, once marred, now glorious as ten thousand suns shining in their strength. His very appearance will say with emphasis, *These arms were once extended for your salvation; for sinners like you, this head was crowned with thorns—this body and soul bore the tremendous weight of a world's redemption.* And this exhibition wi'l furnish overwhelming proof of the ingratitude and guilt of him whom such love could not melt.

All the *instructions* of Christ will also testify against him. “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; *the word that I have spoken*, the same shall judge him in the last day.” Yes, these glorious truths of the Saviour will be as noonday splendors, to render his ingratitude the more manifest, his perseverance in sin perfectly inexcusable, and his damnation just.

But cannot the **LAW** be set aside, and the sinner thus escape? “**GOD IS THE JUDGE,**” and he cannot set aside His own law. And when he shall exhibit its infinite

purity in contrast with the sinner's vileness, then the poor wretch, if he have no *Saviour* to plead for him, must feel that he is indeed undone for ever. But—

He will have no ADVOCATE. At a human tribunal, when the culprit is arraigned, though all the witnesses be against him, and the judge inflexibly just, still he cherishes hope from the ingenuity and eloquence of his advocate. But for the sinner at Jehovah's bar, no advocate will be found. Not one of his boldest companions will venture a syllable in his defence ; not one of those foul spirits of darkness who beguiled him with lies, will now care for his safety ; not one of the bright and generous millions of angels will attempt to palliate his guilt ; and having rejected the Saviour, he can have no part in *his* mercy. Thus, he must bear his own burden. He must meet the condemning witnesses, the violated law, and the eternal Judge, without any advocate. And—

ALL THE JURORS WILL BE PERFECTLY HOLY. “Know ye not that the *saints* shall judge the world ?” Yes, these happy spirits, themselves “washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb,” will then look on the wicked who have despised his mercy, just as they appear “in the light of God’s countenance,” amid the splendors of the “great white throne ;” and in such circumstances they cannot but acquiesce in the sanctions of the holy law. Their part will then be, with Christ, to judge and condemn ; and not, as now, to entreat and suffer wrong. Men of piety and moral worth are sometimes most cruelly treated in this world. Wealth and intrigue may here succeed in a bad cause — “but ‘t is not so above.”

O, sinner, when every witness shall be against you, and your Judge inflexibly just ; when no kind advocate shall appear for you, and all the jurors shall be perfectly

holy — can thy heart endure or thy hands be strong ? Ah, no. Every angel would say, *No*; this controversy is with *Omnipotence*, and no sinner “ shall be able to stand,” when “ the great day of his wrath is come.”

“ Agree, then, with thine adversary quickly, while thou art in the way with him.” Fly to the Saviour. Accept his offered mediation. It is inexpressible madness as well as guilt, to remain unreconciled to God, and approach the judgment without an advocate, without one favoring witness, with no friend on the throne, nor one pitying saint or angel among all the assembled millions.

“ The ungodly shall not stand.” And recollect, from that fall there is no recovery. It settles your character and destiny *for ever*. And O, eternity, eternity, eternity ! Who that has now the offer of peace, would have the Holy One his eternal enemy ? Think, O, my soul, what it is to be condemned by the infinite Redeemer and Judge, and lie for ever under the “ power of his anger ! ” Think of the amount of misery to be endured by a soul increasing for ever in guilt and remorse ! Think of the extent of eternity ! Send an angel forward on the awful deep, with lightning’s speed, for millions of centuries, and the dread waves of perdition are still rolling eternally beyond !

Dying man, what are *your* prospects ? “ Judge yourself now, that you may not be condemned with the world.” “ The prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself.” “ If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself; but if thou scornest, thou alone must bear it.”

